

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 /093 W  
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R 291149Z SEP 76 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL PORT SAID  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY LOOK AT ELECTION LISTS

REF: CAIRO 13087

SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY AND INCOMPLETE LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR  
OCT. 28 ELECTIONS SHOW INORDINATE NUMBER OF "INDEPENDENTS", WHOSE  
POLITICAL BELIEFS FUN GUMUT FROM EXTREME RELIGIOUS RIGHT TO  
COMMUNISTS LEFT. SOME "INDEPENDENTS" HAVE CHOSEN TO AVOID  
FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH ANY OF THREE ASU GROUPINGS  
BECAUSE THEY REJECT NOTION THAT NUMBER OF "PARTIES" SHOULD BE  
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LIMITED. MANY OTHERS ARE NOT "INDEPENDENTS" AT ALL BUT ARE

MARXISTS AND NASSERISTS SEEKING AVOID "ATHEIST" TAIN OF LEFTIST GROUP. THE IKHWAN AS AN ORGANIZATION IS ABSTAINING FROM PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS, AS ARE MANY POLITICIANS PROMINENT IN FORMER YEARS. CAMPAIGN SHAPES UP AS LIVELY AFFAIR. MOST EGYPTIANS BELIEVE ELECTIONS WILL BE FAIRLY CONDUCTED AND THAT SADAT'S SUPPORTERS WILL OBTAIN LARGE MAJORITY. END SUMMARY.

1. NOMINATIONS FOR THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ON OCT 28 CLOSED SEPT 23. OFFICIAL LISTS OF CANDIDATES WILL BE PUBLISHED WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS AFTER ASU HAS HAD TIME EXAMINE ALL REGISTRATIONS TO CONFIRM THEIR VALIDITY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, ABOUT 1660 INDIVIDUALS HAVE PUT THEIR NAMES FORWARD AS CANDIDATES FOR THE 350 ELECTED SEATS, AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN FOUR PER SEAT. THERE ARE 175 CONSTITUENCIES, EACH OF WHICH ELECTS ONE WORKER/FARMER AND ONE OTHER (USUALLY A PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESSMAN, OR REP OF A PROMINENT FAMILY).

3. THE ASU LEFTIST GROUP HAS ANNOUNCED IT HAS PUT FORWARD 65 NAMES, MOST OF WHOM WE NOTE ARE CANDIDATES IN FACTORY TOWNS. RIGHTIST GROUP MUSTERED EVEN FEWER. THE CENTER (GOVERNMENT) GROUP APPEARS TO HAVE CANDIDATES IN EVERY CONSTITUENCY, INCLUDING ALL THE PRESENT CABINET MINISTERS WHO NOW HOLD SEATS.

4. THE SURPRISE HAS BEEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO HAVE REGISTERED AS INDEPENDENTS--OF THE NAMES SO FAR PUBLISHED, MORE THAN ONE-THIRD ARE INDEPENDENTS, RANGING THROUGH EVERY IDENTIFIABLE POLITICAL TREND. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, AN EX-"PASH" WHO SERVED AS NAHHAS PASHA'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR. AT THE OTHER EXTREME IS WELL-KNOWN COMMUNIST AHMAD TAHA, ONE OF TWO ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO VOTED AGAINST ABROGATION OF SOVIET FREINDSHIP TREATY. IN BETWEEN ARE SOME DISGRACED OFFICIALS (SUCH AS FORMER ARAB SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR ABU ZAYD AND AHMAD YUNIS, CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT), DISTINGUISHED POLITICAL FIGURES LIKE EX-MINISTER HILMI MURAD, MANY HITHERTO UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS RUNNING ON AN ISLAMIC PLATFORM, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS LIKE MAHMUD A-QADI, AND MOST INTERESTING OF ALL, THE NEW NASSERIST LEADER KAMAL AHMAD. THE RIGHTIST DAILY AKHBAR HAS BEEN WARNING IN EDITORIALS  
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THAT LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN NOMINATING THEMSELVES AS INDEPENDENTS TO DISGUISE THEIR TRUE COLORS, AND THIS ACCUSATION IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY ACCURATE. MANY OF THE NASSERISTS HAVE CLEARLY DECIDED THAT THEY WISH NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEFTIST GROUP, GIVEN ITS COMMUNIST (I.E., ATHEIST) TAIN FOR THE MASS OF EGYPTIAN ELECTORS.

5. ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE NOT SEEN THE TOTAL LIST OF NOMINATIONS,

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MORE INDEPENDENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE ELECTED THAN THE LEFT AND RIGHT GROUPS PUT TOGETHER. GIVEN THE MELANGE OF POLITICAL ORIENTATION WITHIN THE INDEPENDENT CATEGORY, HOWEVER, THIS GROUP IS UNLIKELY TO STICK TOGETHER. THE NASSERISTS WILL CERTAINLY ATTEMPT TO EVRM A REGULAR CAUCUS, BUT THEY WILL NOT ATTRACT INDEPENDENT RIGHTISTS TO IT. BOTH MARXIST AND NASSERISTS, HOWEVER, ARE GOING ALL OUT AS AKHBAR WARNS) TO WOO THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT BY ARTICLE AND SPEECHES QUOTING THE KORAN AND BY BRIBES TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

6. WHILE THERE MAY BE MEMBERS OF THE IKHWAN AMONG THE CANDIDATES, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE AS YET TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THEM. CERTAINLY THERE ARE NO LEADING IKHWAN FIGURES. EBEN ABU RAQIQ, WHO ACCEPTED A POSITION ON THE CENTRIST GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE NOMINATED HIMSELF FOR ELECTION. WHILE MANY OF THE IKHWAN MENTALITY ARE CERTAINLY RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS (A CONCLUSION WE MAKE FROM THEIR CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS), IT WOULD APPEAR SO FAR THAT THE IKHWAN IS STANDING BY ITS DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE AS AN ORGANIZATION IN THESE ELECTIONS.

7. ALSO CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE ARE POLITICIANS FORMERLY PROMINENT UNDER NASSER (HAYKAL, AZIZ SIDQI, ETC,ETC). APPARENTLY, ONLY HILMI MURAD HAS EMERGED FROM OBSURITY TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS.

8. THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF, ENERVATED BY THE RAMADAN DOLDRUMS, ESPECIALLY WITH RAMADAN OCCURRING AT THE HEIGHT OF THE SUMMER THIS YEAR, IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING IN EARNEST. AS USUAL, THE ENERGETIC CITIZENS OF ALEXANDRIA ARE LEADING THE WASY WITH POSTERS AND RALLIES. THE ALEXANDRIA CONSTITUENCY OF ATTARIN BOASTS TWO OF THE LEADING LIGHTS--MAHMUD AL-QADI (PROFESSIONAL) AND KAMAL AHMAD (WORDER/FARMER), BOTH RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH RUNNING HARD. PROMIN SALIM'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ATTARIN (HE WILL RUN ELSEWHERE IN ALEXANDRIA) IS ASCRIBED TO GENERAL BELIEF THAT POPULAR QADI WOULD BEAT HIM. KAMAL AHMAD IS SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY (PROBABLY SOVIET). HIS COLORED POSTERS, THE SIZE OF MOVIE BILLBOARDS, CALL HIM "THE MAN WHO WON THE ADMIRATION OF THE PEOPLE BY HIS DARING DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT THE ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE" (BROADCAST LIVE LAST MARCH 27- CAIRO 4020). HIS POSTERS ALSO CLAIM THAT HE HAS BA IN ECONOMICS, DEPLOMA IN TAXATION,AND MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, A STARTLING CLAIM FOR A WORKER AT A YEAST FACTORY.

9. PRESIDENT SADAT HAD LITTLE TO SAY PUBLICLY IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS UNTIL HIS SEPT. 28 SPEECH (REFTTEL), WHEN HE STERNLY WARNED THE "EXTREME RIGHT AND EXTREME LEFT" AGAINST

NOT PLAYING BY THE ASU RULES. HE CAUTIONED THAT THE ELECTIONS MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ASU PARAMETERS: THE RIGHT (I.E., THE OLD WAFDIST POLITICIANS) MUST NOT RUN ON PLATFORM WHICH REJECTS THE RIPARTITE ASU GROUP EXPERIMENT, AND THE LEFT MUST NOT INCITE THE PEOPLE TO REBEL AGAINST SUCH ESTABLISHED EGYPTIAN REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES AS THE PROHIBITION OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE. WE READ THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS A DIRECT THREAT TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT CONTENT TO RUN THEIR CAMPAIGNS ACCORDING TO ASU REGULATIONS AND THE 1971 CONSTITUTION. CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM WILL CONTINUE, WE BELIEVE, TO BE NOT ONLY ACCEPTED BUT ALSO ENCOURAGED, SINCE SADAT'S PRESTIGE IS INVOLVED IN MAKING THESE ELECTIONS WORK.

10. MOST EGYPTIANS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN BELIEVE POLLING WILL BE FAIR. CYNICS ATTRIBUTE THIS FAIRNESS TO SADAT'S BELIEF THAT OPPOSITION CANDIDATES HAVE LITTLE CHANCE ANYWAY. "FAIRNESS" MUST OF COURSE, BE UNDERSTOOD IN EGYPTIAN CONTEXT- CANDIDATES WILL BRIBE AND BUY VOTES AND ARE ALREADY DOING SO. FURTHER, THERE IS A HANDFUL OF CANDIDATES (E.G. PRIMO SALIM, SPEAKER MAR'U) WHO ARE SURE THINGS, BUT WE THINK GOE WILL BEND EVERY EFFORT ENSURE THEIR ELECTION WITHOUT DIRECT INTERVENTION IN THE CAMPAIGN OR VOTE COUNTING PROCESS. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, THE BALLOT BOXES WILL NOT BE STUFFED. CAMPAIGN IS SHAPING UP AS LIVELY AFFAIR.  
MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTORATE, ELECTION FORECASTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CAIRO13146  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760386-0193, D760368-0920  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976099/aaaaahdl.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CAIRO 13087  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRELIMINARY LOOK AT ELECTION LISTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006